Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KINGST 03996 092046Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W $\,$

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9094

SECRETKINGSTON 3996

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, PINT, EGEN, JM

SUBJECT: MATALON PROPOSALS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 240693

- 1. APPRECIATE AND UNDERSTAND ALL STRICTURES CONTAINED IN REFTEL AND CONCUR COMPLETELY IN APPROACH SUGGESTED.
- 2. MATALON DUE BACK HERE OCTOBER 12 AFTER CHECK-UP IN MIAMI AND HAS ADVISED HE WISHES TO TALK TO ME SHORTLY AFTER RETURN. IN INTEND TO WAIT FOR CALL FROM HIM OR PM
- 3. IF ANYTHING IS TO COME OF ALL THIS, I SEE USG ROLE PRIMARILY AS CATALYST AND PROVIDER OF GOOD OFFICES RATHER THAN DONOR EVEN GUARANTOR. FOR EXAMPLE, IN CONVERSATIONS EARLIER THIS WEEK WITH VP LINDEMUTH OF KAISER, (KINGSTON 3975) HE EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN WITH JAMAICAN ECONOMIC SITUATION WHICH JEOPARDIZED THEIR INVESTMENT. WHEN I ASKED HYPOTHETICALLY WHETHER HE THOUGHT THE INDUSTRY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN GUARANTEES IN RETURN FOR REASONABLE ASSURANCES WERE THE GOJ TO TURN TO THE UNITED STATES FOR HELP, HE REACTED FAVORABLY AND FELT THAT SUCH A SECRET

SECRET

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POSSIBILITY CERTAINLY MERITED DISCUSSION

4. ASSESSMENT OF URGENCY OF GOJ FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES
ALREADY IN PROGRESS NOW BEING REVISED IN LIGHT
OF THREE AND ONE-HALF HOUR SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER
YESTERDAY ON GOVERNMENT ANTI-INFLATION ACTIONS. OUR OFF-CUFF
REACTION IS THAT PROPOSED MEASURES ARE PRIMARILY
POLITICAL AND WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY REMEDY WHAT
HE TERMED "GRAVE SITUATION" AND "CRISIS". FOREIGN
EXCHANGE POSITION IS CERTAINLY IN CRITICAL AREA.
PROPOSED "BELT-TIGHTENING" IS LARGELY COSMETIC AND
NO REALISTIC WAGE CONTROL POLICY WAS FORTHCOMING-ALTHOUGH VAGUE PROMISES OF FOLLOW-UP ACTION IN COMING
MONTHS COULD, IF IMPLEMENTED, RESULT IN SOME IMPROVEMENTM
I CURRENTLY FORESEE DISLOCATIONS OF VARYING DEGREES
OF SEVERITY FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE BUT NO MAJOR CRUNCH
UNTIL END OF FIRST QUARTER 1976. GERARD

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, PINR, PINT, EGEN, JM, (MATALON)
To: STATE

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